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Preparatory Commission of the International Criminal Court
New York
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Statement by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

Information document submitted by Spain

Today, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the requirement of 60 ratifications for the entry into force of the Rome Statute, creating the International Criminal Court, has been met. The European Union salutes this event, which is a step of great importance for the defence of fundamental rights of human beings and for the affirmation of law and justice in the world.

The European Union congratulates those States whose ratifications have made possible the establishment of the International Criminal Court and makes an appeal to other States to join the Statute so that the Court promptly reaches universality.

The European Union, which has actively contributed to the drafting, development and entry into force of the Rome Statute, reaffirms its commitment to support the early operation of the International Criminal Court in its seat at The Hague.

The International Criminal Court, the first great institution to come to life in the new millennium, will be an essential component in the struggle against impunity for acts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, which are serious crimes of concern to the international community. It deserves the wholehearted support of all of us.

Madrid and Brussels, 11 April 2002

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